

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): An isolated-choline monooxygenase gene encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): An isolated gene comprising the following DNA (c) or (d):

(c) the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, 3 or 5;

(d) a nucleotide sequence which has 97% homology with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, 3 or 5, and which encodes a protein having choline monooxygenase activity.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim 2.

Claim 5 (Original): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 4.

Claim 6 (Original): A method for producing a choline monooxygenase, comprising culturing the transformant according to claim 5 and recovering the choline monooxygenase from the resultant culture.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): An isolated gene encoding a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:17.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): An isolated gene comprising the following DNA (g) or (h):

(g) the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 16;

(h) a nucleotide sequence which has 97% homology with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:16 and which encodes a protein having signal peptide activity.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim 8 or 9 and a gene of interest.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The recombinant vector according to claim 10, wherein the isolated gene of interest leads to production of a polypeptide or production of a plant metabolite.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The recombinant vector according to claim 10, wherein the polypeptide or the plant metabolite confers stress resistance to high salt conditions, drought conditions or both in a tobacco plant.

Claim 13 (Original): The recombinant vector according to claim 10, wherein the gene of interest is *Chenopodium album* choline monooxygenase gene.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 10.

Claim 15 (Original): The transformant according to claim 14, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~An environmental stress-resistant~~ A tobacco plant which is obtained by culturing or cultivating a transformed plant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 12 ~~or 13~~ under an environmental stress of high salt conditions, drought conditions or both.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The plant according to claim 16, wherein the environmental stress is high salt stress.

Claims 18-22 (Cancelled).

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim 3.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 23.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a choline monooxygenase, comprising culturing the transformant according to claim 24 and recovering the choline monooxygenase from the resultant culture.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim 9 and a gene of interest.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The recombinant vector according to claim 26, wherein the gene of interest leads to production of a polypeptide or production of a plant metabolite.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The recombinant vector according to claim 26, wherein the polypeptide or the plant metabolite stress resistance to high salt conditions, drought conditions or both in a tobacco plant.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The recombinant vector according to claim 26, wherein the gene of interest is *Chenopodium album* choline monooxygenase gene.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 26.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 27.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 28.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 29.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim 30, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim 31, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim 32, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim 33, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim 34, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): ~~An environmental stress resistant~~ A tobacco plant which is obtained by culturing or cultivating a transformed plant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 13 under an environmental stress of high salt conditions, drought conditions or both.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The plant according to claim 39, wherein the environmental stress is high salt stress.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The isolated gene according to claim 3, which is (c).

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The isolated gene according to claim 3, which is (d).

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The isolated gene according to claim 9, which is (g).

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The isolated gene according to claim 9, which is (h).

Claim 45 (New): A tobacco plant which is obtained by culturing or cultivating a transformed plant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 13 under an environmental stress of high salt conditions, drought conditions or both.

Claim 46 (New): The plant according to claim 45, wherein the environmental stress is high salt stress.